

BEETLE TALK

With reference to the paper by Garland T. Riegel entitled *Confused water beetles* (Coleopt. Bull. 17: 64), the following is of some interest.

In this note, Dr. Riegel states that the dytiscids were attracted to storm windows which were placed on sawhorses to be painted. I recently read the following statement regarding dytiscids in a book entitled "*World's Natural History or Living Creatures of Land and Sea, etc.*," a very interesting book published in 1904 (author and publisher are not listed):

"Towards evening this, in common with many other Water Beetles, is accustomed to leave the streams, to spread its wide wings and to soar into the air. In the early morning it again seeks its watery home, and is accustomed to save time and exertion by closing its wings and dropping like a stone as soon as it perceives the water below. Sometimes, however, it is direfully disappointed, mistaking the glitter of glass, such as the sashes of cucumber frames, the tops of green-houses, and similar objects, for the water in which it is accustomed to plunge, and in consequence receives no small shock when it comes in contact with the hard glass."

So this interesting behavior apparently has been noticed before.—ROBERT C. GRAVES, Bowling Green University, Bowling Green, Ohio.